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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 8038.0043

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Yasuo Kobayashi et al.)
)
Application No.: 09/667,768)
)
Filed: January 30, 2001)
)
For: PROCESSING APPARATUS AND)
PROCESSING METHOD)

Group Art Unit: 1746
Examiner: Unassigned

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of the listed document, including any copending patent applications, is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation, an English language Abstract of the non-English document is enclosed.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

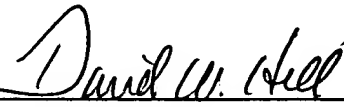
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 20, 2001

By: 
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